THE FIRST CHAPTER OF *LAMENTATIONS.*

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1. HOW are the Mighty fallen, and the Weapons of War periſhed!

2. Tell it not in *Down*, publiſh it not in the Street of *Armagh*, leſt the Daughters of the Courtiers rejoice, leſt the Daughters of the Placemen ſhould triumph.

3. The Lord of Hosts hath purposed it, to stain the Pride of all Glory, and to bring into Contempt all the Honourable of the Earth.

4. Howl ye Patriot Congregations of the North and the South; for your mighty Men are nought; they have changed the Ordinance, they have broken the Covenant.

5. They said among the People, all Power is given to us, and none shall oppress you, walk after the imaginations of your own Hearts, for no Evil shall come upon you.

6. Then the People exulted, and their Rage was kindled against such as had oppressed them, and the Nation was rent with Divions.

7. And the mighty Man and the Man of War, the Judge and the Ancient, the Patriot and the Courtier, were oppressed every one by another, and every one by his Neighbour; the Child behaved proudly against the Ancient, and the Base against the Honourable: The Brother sought the Blood of his Brother, and the Son lifted his Arm against the Father.

8. And the Spirit of Persecution went abroad among all Sects; and Liberty swelled into Licentiousness; and Fear fell upon the Court.

9. Then

9. Then ſaid the King, foraſmuch as theſe Patriots do profeſs Liberty with their Mouths, and with their Lips do honour it; but have removed their Hearts far from it.

10. Therefore will I proceed to do a marvellous Work among them, even a marvellous Work and a Wonder; for the Wiſdom of their wiſe Men ſhall periſh, and the Underſtanding of their prudent Men ſhall be hid: And all Men ſhall ſee that they are full of Rottenneſs.

11. And he called *William*, his Servant, and cloathed him with his Robe, and ſtrengthened him with his Girdle, and laid the Key of the Treaſure-Houſe upon his Shoulder, and committed the Government into his Hands.

12. And he ſaid, go ſhew my People that their Leaders are a Lye; that they cauſe them to err; that every one is an Hypocrite, and an Evil-doer, and ſpeaketh Folly.

13. And *William* paſſed from *London*, from the crowning City, whoſe Merchants are Princes, even unto *Dublin*,

14. Then aſſembled he the Patriots together, and made ſweet Melody, and ſung them many Songs, and ſaid unto them, what would ye,

ye, and wherefore divide ye the Servants of the King? Are not the King's Coffers full of Gold, and ye have Liberty to take plentifully thereof?

15. I will make you fat as the Bulls of *Baſan*; and in your Days ſhall be Joy and Gladneſs, ſlaying Oxen and killing Sheep, eating Fleſh and drinking Wine: And ye ſhall have Liberty more than your Fathers, even the Liberty of doing what ſhall ſeem meet unto you.

16. What is gathered from the trading Cities, from the Corn, the Wool and the Hide, ſhall be given to you and your Poſterity, and ye ſhall be as the Princes of the Earth; and Taxes ſhall be multiplied for you; only do ye as the King's Counſellors ſhall ſay unto you, and be ſilent.

17. Then the ancient Speaker, and the black-brow'd Diſſembler, and the eloquent Orator, ſaid one to another, what ſeek we but Riches and Power? And lo! the King's Treaſure is open to us; his Arm ſhall give us Strength, and we will turn to him: And his Word ſhall be a Law to us.

18. Have we not been Courtiers? And ſhall we not again? Have we not grinded theſe rebellious Patriots? And ſhall we not again? Shall not all Power be given to us? And who ſhall ſpeak before us?

19. Then

19. Then ſaid they to *William*, let the King live for ever: Be it with thy Servants as thou commandeſt: We will put away the Evil of our Doings; we will be obedient, and eat the Good of the Land: And the Congregations of the North ſhall be deſtroy'd, and every Tongue that ſhall riſe up in Judgment againſt us we will condemn.

20. And they ſaid, now let us fetch Wine, and fill ourſelves with ſtrong Wine, and To-morrow ſhall be as this Day, and much more abundant.

21. Then were the People aſtoniſh'd for they ſaw that they were greedy Dogs that can never have enough; that they all looked to their own Way, every one for his Gain from his Quarter, and that *Ireland* was not in their Thoughts.

22. Hear now, ye Hypocrites, hear the Judgment of the Lord: Since ye have betrayed the Innocent, Peace ſhall not dwell in your Habitations; your Houſes ſhall be ſpoil'd, and your Daughters raviſh'd: For, ye treacherous Dealers, ye have dealt very treacherouſly.

23. Ye ſaid in your Hearts, who ſeek us? and who knoweth us? Hath not the Lord ſeen you, and directed his Anointed to make you the Scoff of Nations?

24. Behold,

24. Behold, ye ſhall be as Stubble, the Fire ſhall burn you: Thorns ſhall come up in your Palaces; they ſhall be the Habitation of Dragons, the Shriek-Owl ſhall reſt there, and Vultures be gathered there, every one with her Mate.

25. For ye have diſtracted the People; ye have betrayed them.

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The End of the FIRST CHAPTER